Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Regardless of the type of progressive, known games typically require the player to play the maximum bet to be eligible to win the progressive jackpot. Even on a single payline dollar machine, the maximum bet can be $5 (max bet on most slot machines is 5 credits per payline). Many players who are not willing to wager such an amount, or consistently willing to wager such an such an amount, are thus excluded from having an opportunity to win the progressive jackpot and enjoy its associated payout increase. A known progressive slot machine that requires a max bet to enable the player to win a jackpot includes a "Megabucks" game by IGT, the assignee of this invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Other slot machines require the player to wager the max bet, i.e., the highest possible number of credits on each of the paylines, or max lines, i.e., at least one coin per payline before the game enables the player to win a predetermined award from a game of the gaming device. A known slot machine that requires a player to wager a max bet to enable the player to win an award includes a "Video Wheel of Fortune" game by IGT. In each of these situations, it is desirable to provide a gaming device having a game that enables any player to be eligible to win the award and enjoy its associated payout increase, regardless of the amount wagered.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It should be appreciated that although the average investment necessary to win the jackpot does not vary, the jackpot itself does not have to remain constant, such as in the progressive game described above. The return on investment, which is a function of the jackpot amount divided by the average total necessary investment can thus vary over time or upon playing different turns of the gaming device. Such a change of return on investment, however, applies equally to small stakes as well as large stakes players. The return on investment as a function of time or event can therefore vary. However, the return on investment, at one time or upon one event, as a function of the amount of a player's wager (including components of the player's total wager), is constant.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a5

When the gaming device of the present invention is a slot machine, there exists two well known and standard components to the player's total bet or wager; namely, (i) the number of paylines that a player has bet and (ii) the player's bet per active payline. Increasing the likelihood that a player will win at a slot machine as the player increases the total bet via increasing the number of paylines, when the winning symbols or combinations remain constant, is well known and is, in fact, one of the purposes of employing multiple paylines. The present invention, however, contemplates changing the winning symbols or combinations and thereby providing more favorable odds when the player plays more paylines. The present invention also contemplates increasing the likelihood that a player will win at a slot machine as the player increases the total bet via increasing the bet per active payline. The present invention further contemplates increasing the likelihood that a player will win at a slot machine as the player increases the total bet via increasing the paylines and the bet per active payline. For purposes of this application, a "wager component" includes but is not limited to a payline.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page ~~12~~ *13*, line ~~12~~ *3*, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a6

Fig. 12 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device which includes the apparatus necessary to carry out the method of Game 1 of Fig. 11, wherein the present invention varies the odds as a function of the bet per payline in the base game;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page ~~12~~ *13*, line 16 *6*, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a

Fig. 13 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device which includes the apparatus necessary to carry out the method of Game 2 of Fig. 11, wherein the present invention varies the odds as a function of changing the number of paylines wagered and the odds as a function of changing the bet per payline in the base game;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page ~~12~~ *13*, line ~~21~~ *12*, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a8

Fig. 14 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device which includes the apparatus necessary to carry out the method of Game 3 of Fig. 11, wherein the present invention varies the odds as a function of changing the number of paylines wagered in the base game and the odds as a function of changing the bet per payline in the bonus round;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 15 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device which includes the apparatus necessary to carry out the method of Game 4 of Fig. 11, wherein the present invention varies the odds as a function of changing the bet per payline in the base game and the odds as a function of changing the number of paylines wagered in the bonus round;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 16 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device which includes the apparatus necessary to carry out the method of Game 5 of Fig. 11, wherein the present invention varies the odds in the base game and the bonus round and provides an additional odds constant in the bonus round;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 17 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device which includes a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 18 is a front plan view of a portion of the gaming device which includes the apparatus necessary to carry out the method of Game 6 of Fig. 11, wherein the present invention provides an odds constant in the base game and varies the odds in the bonus round.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring to both Figs. 3 and 4, it should be appreciated that the odds curve of Fig. 3 and the payout ratio line of Fig. 4 for the present invention do not require the jackpot y to have any particular value. In the example the jackpot is $10,000, however, the jackpot can have any value, e.g., $10, $100, $1,000, $100,000, $1,000,000, etc. The jackpot y can also vary over time or as a function of a gaming device event, i.e., from game to game. For example, on one spin of the reels 34 (Figs. 1A and 1B), the jackpot can be $5,000 and on the next spin the jackpot can be $15,000, etc. The graphs of Figs. 3 and 4 apply to one spin of the reels or one turn at the gaming device. Within one spin or turn, the odds at winning a particular jackpot are better the more a player wagers, but the payout ratio for that particular jackpot is the same despite the amount wagered. The

present invention thus includes progressive games described above. Even if a particular progressive jackpot increases while the reels of a slot machine are spinning, the present invention still applies to whatever value is ultimately available for the player to win.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

To aid in the description of the present invention, it is helpful to illustrate the relationship, or lack thereof between the odds, the wager x, the award or jackpot y and the payout ratio z for other known gaming devices. Referring now to Fig. 5, a graph illustrates the odds as a function of a player's bet for the normal operation (i.e., non-jackpot award) of known slot machines. The graph includes the odds of winning an award 100 along the y-axis of the graph and the amount wagered or player's bet 102 along the x-axis of the graph. Known gaming devices maintain predefined odds for each paying symbol or combination of symbols. The player can obtain more favorable odds by playing more paylines at one time, which increases the player's wager.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It should be appreciated by one skilled in the art that in the method and apparatus of Fig. 12, $100,000 will have to be wagered, on average, to win the $10,000 award regardless of the amount that the player bets. It should also be appreciated that the player's odds of winning, according the equation, odds = $y / (x * z)$, become more favorable to the player as the player increases the player's wager. It should further be appreciated that one skilled in the art can implement a similar game to Game 1, wherein the game provides and the paytable displays different winning combinations having varying odds or chance at being randomly generated, and wherein the combinations and thus the odds change as a function of a change in the number of paylines wagered.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It should be appreciated by one skilled in the art, that in Game 2, $100,000 will need to be wagered, on average, to win the $10,000 award regardless of the number of paylines wagered or the bet per payline. It should also be appreciated that the player's odds of winning, according the equation, odds = $y / (x * z)$ become more favorable to the player as the player increases the number of paylines wagered and/or the bet per payline.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It should be appreciated that in Game 4, $100,000 will need to be wagered, on average, to win the $10,000 award regardless of the number of paylines wagered or the bet per payline. It should also be appreciated that the player's odds of winning, according the equation, odds = $y / (x * z)$ become more favorable to the player as the player increases the player's wager. It should further be appreciated that the odds of entering the bonus round become more favorable to the player as the player increases the bet per payline and the odds of winning the bonus round become more favorable to the player as the player increases the number of paylines wagered.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 41, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the player finishes playing the spin grid game 154, and assuming the player has at least one spin, the player moves onto the second bonus game, which includes a spinning wheel 156 having a plurality of wedge-shaped sections and a fixed cursor 158. The cursor 158 designates one of the wedge-shaped sections at all times. The wedges include a plurality of shields 160, a plurality of awards 162, preferably at least one free spin plus award 164 and preferably at least one free spin plus a shield 166. The number of shields 160, number of free spin plus shield wedges 166 and the overall number of wedges affect the overall odds of obtaining shields. If the player obtains five shields, the player wins the grand prize or jackpot, as illustrated by table 168. The game also preferably provides consolation awards for obtaining one through four shields.